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**Taking Property by Condemnation.** A new departure in the obtaining of property for use by a city is the step taken in Los Angeles where the city council has passed a resolution authorizing and directing the city attorney to proceed with the condemnation of that part of the plant of the Southern California Edison Company wanted by the city for the municipal distribution of the electric power to be generated by the Owens River aqueduct water. Under a law recently enacted the State railroad commission is empowered to conduct such proceedings and to fix the price for utilities taken over under condemnation—a great saving of time as compared with the former necessity for impaneling a jury and trying such a case in a court of law. The price determined by the commission is to be paid out of the sale of bonds to the amount of \$6,500,000 which have been voted for a distributing system.

A. M. H.

**Joint Civic Enterprises.** Three small cities in Illinois—La Salle, Peru, and Oglesby—which are included within a six-square-mile congressional township, have combined for a civic center which is being built around one high school. This result came in 1898 after a struggle lasting several years to overcome the jealousy among the three municipalities. The other buildings included in the group are an assembly hall, a manual training and domestic science building, a gymnasium, and a hygienic institute. This latter represents another step in coöperation; that is, the substituting of a central, efficient and well-equipped health office for the three separate health officers who had formerly performed the work somewhat perfunctorily. Another coöperating agency is the infant welfare station. This tri-city center has been achieved through private generosity in coöperation with the final authority administering the township high school and the city councils.

A. M. H.

**City Planning—New York.** In the interest of city planning two advisory commissions have lately been appointed in New York City by the board of estimate and apportionment. The advisory commission to the city planning committee of the board is designed to correlate the work of all municipal agencies which are in any way concerned with the physical development of the city, and will, in addition, consider plans for definite local improvements which may be recommended by the borough authorities. The other advisory commission is that recommended by the heights of buildings commission in its report and is